

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Travis Elison, Kuskokwim Area Manager
Jeff Estensen, Yukon Area Manager
Aaron Tiernan, Assistant Kuskokwim Area Manager
Phone: (907) 543-2433
Fax: (907) 543-2021

Issuing Area Office
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Bethel, Alaska 99559
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2013 KUSKOKWIM BAY-CAPE ROMANZOF HERRING NEWS RELEASE 2

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for commercial herring fishermen in Kuskokwim Bay.

An aerial survey was flown on May 15 in the Goodnews Bay and Security Cove Districts. An estimated biomass of 4,000 tons was observed in the Goodnews Bay District and 580 tons was observed in the Security Cove District. No spawn was observed. Ice pack covered approximately half of Goodnews Bay. The beach at Security Cove was covered by ice blown onto shore.

ADF&G will begin test fishing in Goodnews Bay on Friday to determine age composition and roe quality. **The first commercial herring period in Goodnews Bay is anticipated to begin on Saturday, May 18.**

Corrections to Kuskokwim Herring News Release 1

The projected biomass and guideline harvest of Nunivak Island and Kuskokwim Area totals have been corrected. Table 1 shows the total projected biomass estimates and guideline harvests levels by district for 2013. The total guideline harvest level for the Kuskokwim Area is expected to be approximately 9,905 tons.

Table 1. Projected herring spawning biomass and harvest in the Kuskokwim Area commercial herring districts, 2013^a.

District	Projected Biomass (st)	Guideline Harvest (st)	Threshold ^b	Exploitation Rate (%)
Security Cove	17,542	3,508	1,200	20
Goodnews Bay	28,236	5,647	1,200	20
Cape Avinof	1,773	266	500	15
Nelson Island	3,906	581	3,000	20 ^c
Nunivak Island	2,420	484	1,500	20
Kuskokwim Area Total	53,877	9,905		

^a Projection may be adjusted based on inseason biomass estimates.

^b Threshold biomass needed to allow a commercial fishery (5 AAC 27.060)

^c Nelson Island exploitation rate is 20% of projected biomass minus 200 st for subsistence harvest.

ADF&G's fishery managers can be reached by calling Travis Elison at (907) 543-2709 and Aaron Tiernan at (907) 543-2331 in the Bethel office for Kuskokwim Bay, and Jeff Estensen (907) 459-7217 in the Fairbanks office for Cape Romanzof. Current fishery information will be available by calling the telephone recorder in Bethel at (907) 543-2598 or toll free at (855) 933-2433. Recordings will be updated as information becomes available. Fishery updates will also be available at the Commercial Fisheries website:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

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